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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who judges justly our Nation and world, we honor Your Name. You are so patient with us. Cleanse our eyes, that we may see more clearly. Open our hearts, that we may love You more dearly. Lord, we confess that sometimes injustice seems to prevail. Avenge injustice, O God, and cause the godly to rejoice. Deliver us from those who seek to set an ambush for freedom.

Lord, give our lawmakers the wisdom to look to You for safety, for You are our strength and salvation.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAMER). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for 30 seconds.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING MERLE DAVID HAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to share some real Iowa history this morning.

Merle David Hay from Glidden, IA, was the first Iowa serviceman to die in World War I. Hay enlisted on May 9, 1917, with his father's blessing, as he was too young to be drafted. He was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division, Company F.

In the early hours of November 3, 1917, while posted in the trenches near the French village of Artois, the Imperial German Army attacked, and Merle Hay was killed. Hay's father said: "I am proud of my boy if he has given up his life for his country."

Merle Hay Road in Des Moines, IA, is a constant memory of this person's sacrifice.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING DAVID JONES, SR.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment this morning to mourn the passing of a devoted son of Louisville, KY, and someone I was lucky to call a very dear friend.

I can say without exaggeration that David Jones, Sr., was the single most influential friend and mentor I have had in my entire career. I have never forgotten something he told me when I was starting out in Jefferson County. He said: "The most important word in the English language is 'focus.'"

David used his extraordinary focus and many other talents to build an extraordinary American business and to better his community. Whenever a local need had somebody—almost everybody, actually—stumped, David always seemed to end up in the thick of it, forging a path to success.

In the days ahead, many will rightly pay tribute to David's brilliance and his determination, but he was also one of the kindest, most decent, most generous individuals I have ever met. I will sorely miss his friendship, and Kentuckians will miss his extraordinary leadership.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on an entirely different matter, today the Senate will have an opportunity to take the first procedural step toward keeping the Federal Government funded and open.

At the end of July, the White House and the Speaker of the House reached an agreement to guide the appropriations process. Both parties, both Chambers, and both sides of Pennsylvania Avenue agreed to the terms. We laid out top-line funding targets for defense and nondefense; we swore off poison pill policy riders; and, unlike the past several budget deals, which took a full year to negotiate while appropriations languished, we finished this year's deal much earlier to ensure we had enough time to move the appropriations bills.

In other words, congressional leaders and the President laid the ground for a sensible, bipartisan funding process, but instead, over the past week and a half, we have seen our Democratic colleagues suggest that they may try to shoehorn their longstanding disagreements with President Trump into this appropriations process. Even though we all agreed not to insist on poison pills or change existing Presidential authorities, Democrats are threatening to filibuster Chairman SHELBY's clean Defense bill over their disagreements with the President on immigration policy.

I sure hope that doesn't happen. I hope our Democratic friends will allow the process to move forward when we vote later today. The stakes are high. We are talking about critical resources for the missions of the Department of Defense. Our military commanders have told us that this funding is vital to keeping peace with Putin's Russia, China, and all their efforts to harm America's interests. Just days ago, Saudi Arabian energy facilities literally went up in flames after what appears to be a massive, coordinated attack by Iran.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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